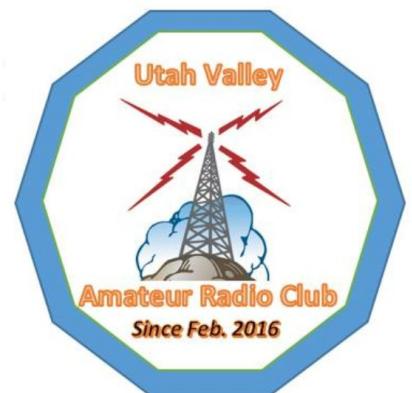


Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their time and skills to help others in a time of need



Mountain rescue in Vermont

Monday 15 June 2020 was a terrific day to start the week with a hike on the [Long Trail](#) of the Appalachians in Vermont. Alden Jones KC1JWR, 41, was hiking and really enjoying himself, but after a couple of hours, started feeling light-headed, and his heart started racing, then the lights went out. Dave, an EMT with the AMR (Appalachian Mountain Rescue – similar to our [TERT](#), but without ham radio), was nearby and saw Alden collapse in a seizure, and rushed over to help. Dave attempted to call in the incident with his cell phone several times, but couldn't reliably connect with a cell tower, so remained at Alden's side. Dave thought about hiking to get a better shot at the cell tower, but felt it would be best to remain with his patient.



Ron Wonderlick AG1W

After a while, Alden regained consciousness, and Dave determined that Alden had seized and passed out due to low blood sugar. It became clear that Alden was in no condition to continue his hike, and Dave thought they were out of options. Then, Alden pulled out his Baofeng HT, which he always packed, because he had programmed it with nearby repeaters and other useful frequencies.



Alden called out to the [Mt. Greylock repeater](#), 146.910 MHz, and Ron AG1W answered the call for help. Ron got hold of Peter KD2JKV, who cleared the frequency and started an impromptu net. For the next eight hours, Ron and Matthew KC1JPU (who was mobile near the mountain), set up two relay points (because the Search and Rescue staging area was in a shadow of the repeater), and helped the crew locate Alden and Dave.

Matthew said that, to work his relay station, he had to drive away from the search staging area, to where the repeater was within reach, but had to build a makeshift roll-up J-pole out of some 450-ohm window line, that he just happened to have in his truck. Using his fishing pole, he cast a line over a tree, and hoisted his antenna, and was now in contact with both Alden and the Search and Rescue crew.

While the two awaited their rescue, Dave started asking Alden questions about his mysterious radio, and how it worked so well for him. Alden didn't hesitate to explain what amateur radio was, how he managed to put it to a life-saving use, and how to get licensed to use it.

This story was mentioned by the [ARRL](#), plus a [local news source](#), and [an online blog](#).

— Reported by Western Massachusetts ARRL

Alden KC1JWR being airlifted